



Photo: AFP. Palestinians use dirt roads, along the coast, to cross to the southern Gaza Strip yesterday as a result of the closure by Israel of Gaza's main north-south highway.

# Israeli troops hold up UN refugee chief in Gaza

AGNCIES, Gaza City. Israeli troops held up the top UN official for Palestinian refugees at a Gaza Strip checkpoint for around two hours yesterday, while he was trying to visit refugee camps in the south, an official in his Gaza office said. Peter Hansen, head of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for Palestinian refugees, was travelling to view the damage inflicted on the Rafah and Khan Yunis refugee camps in recent Israeli raids, said the official, who asked not to be identified. Hansen was allowed to pass through the eastern Netzarim checkpoint south of Gaza City after UN officials telephoned Israeli authorities to ensure Hansen's passage, the official said. "This is a dangerous violation of all international norms, especially as Peter Hansen is the chief of UNRWA and he must be allowed freedom of movement," the official said of the army's blocking of Hansen. The Israeli army sliced the Gaza Strip into three isolated sectors by sealing off major arteries on Tuesday after an overnight assault during which it temporarily occupied Palestinian-run land in the northern Gaza Strip. The army has taken such punitive action several times as part of its clampdown on the Palestinian population since the eruption of violence in late September. Meanwhile Palestinians launched mortar attacks at a settlement in the Gaza Strip and a farming village in Israel overnight, drawing Israeli tank shells that seriously wounded a supporter of the Islamic militant group Hamas. The renewed mortar fire came despite two Israeli incursions into Palestinian-controlled areas of Gaza that were aimed at stopping such attacks. It left Prime Minister Ariel Sharon open to criticism from many quarters within Israel. Hamas claimed responsibility for a mortar attack late Wednesday on the Jewish settlement of Kfar Darom in the Gaza Strip. The group said Thursday that one of its activists, Khalil Sakani, was seriously wounded in the head of shrapnel from an Israeli tank shell during a mortar attack.

# Benazir's corruption trial Pak judge under pressure to resign

AFP, Islamabad. Pakistani High Court Judge Malik Mohammad Qayyum was under strong pressure to resign yesterday after the Supreme Court accused him of fixing former prime minister Benazir Bhutto's corruption trial. "Frankly speaking, the one on trial now is the trial judge," said Farhatullah Babar, a spokesman with Benazir's Pakistan People's Party (PPP). In its full judgement on Benazir's appeal against her 1999 corruption conviction, the Supreme Court yesterday said it had found "bias floating on the surface of the record" of the trial. It accused Qayyum of accepting favours from then prime minister Nawaz Sharif for delivering the guilty verdict. He also "took a personal interest in the case" and allegedly used his "influence" with a junior member of the trial bench to secure the verdict, the judgement said. Benazir and her husband Asif Ali Zardari, a former senator, were both given five-year prison sentences, fined 8.6 million dollars and disqualified from parliament for seven years. Babar echoed calls from the legal community for Qayyum's immediate resignation, but the judge has so far refused to accept fault. "There is no question of resignation," he told the Nation daily.

# Talks resume in Beijing China agrees to discuss return of US spy plane

AP, Beijing. Averting a collapse of talks over a spy plane collision, the top US negotiator said yesterday the Chinese agreed to discuss the return of the American aircraft held for three weeks. The Americans had threatened to walk out after the first day, accusing the Chinese of taking an unproductive attitude. The US ambassador, retired Adm. Joseph Prueher, met with Chinese officials yesterday morning to urge serious negotiations on the EP-3E Aries II spy plane's return. "Based on an understanding that we will be allowed to... include the development of a plan for the prompt recovery and return of our EP-3 aircraft, we decided to go ahead and continue the meeting," Deputy Undersecretary of Defense Peter F. Verga, the top US negotiator, said. Verga made the statement as he and the other seven US negotiators headed to the Foreign Ministry in Beijing for a second day of talks. The US officials left the ministry in the early afternoon. "We covered all the items that were on the agenda, and I found today's session to be productive," Verga said after leaving. US Embassy officials said they did not know if the talks were finished or would continue later in the day. The United States says the return of the 80 million spy plane is its main goal in the talks. China has held the plane since it made an emergency landing April 1 on the South China Sea island of Hainan. The US crew was released only after 11 days of protracted negotiations. US officials in Washington expressed dissatisfaction with the first day's talks. "Nothing was settled. ... There was no progress on the issue of return of the aircraft," State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said after the opening 2 1/2-hour session. Outside the US Embassy in Beijing, a lone protester shouted against US espionage for a few minutes before police stopped him. The tougher attitude will "lead to the Chinese government doubting whether the US government will carry out agreements," the China Daily quoted international relations expert Yan Xuetong as saying. The officials newspaper also ran a list of "US military mistakes" in recent years.



Photo: Internet. US negotiator Peter Verga speaking to the press in Beijing yesterday.

# Water leak found in Japanese N-plant

AP, Tokyo. An internal water leak was discovered in a nuclear power plant in western Japan yesterday, but the operator said no radioactivity was released into the atmosphere. Kansai Electric Power cut the No 1 plant in Takahama, 270 kilometres west of Tokyo, down to 75 per cent of operating capacity and began an inspection, company official Yoshihiko Kondo said. The problem was discovered when operators saw a slight increase in the amount of water flowing into a heater at the plant, Kondo said. "We began investigating whether that increase indicates there is a hole in the heater," meaning more water was flowing in to keep the level of water in the heater stable, Kondo said. He added that the problem was not serious enough to warrant completely shutting down the plant. The company said in a statement that the problem did not present a threat to the environment. Kansai Electric has had a similar water leak in its No 2 nuclear plant in the same area a year ago. The repair took about a week, Kondo said. The company owns 11 nuclear plants. Japan's nuclear power programme has been plagued with problems. The nation's worst nuclear accident occurred in 1999, when an uncontrolled nuclear reaction at a fuel reprocessing centre killed two workers.

# তিতাস গ্যাস ট্রান্সমিশন এন্ড ডিস্ট্রিবিউশন কোম্পানী লিমিটেড

(পেট্রোলিয়ামের একটি কোম্পানী) "তিতাস গ্যাস ভবন" ১০৫, কাজী নজরুল ইসলাম এভিনিউ আগ্রা বাজার বর্ডারজিক এলাকা, ঢাকা-১২১৫। ফোনঃ ৮৮০-২-৯৬২০১১১, ফেক্সঃ ৮৮০-২-৮১১৯৩৮০। পি.এম.এক্সঃ ৮১১২৩৫-৪২।

# পরিবহণ ঠিকাদার নিয়োগের জন্য দরপত্র আহ্বান বিজ্ঞপ্তি

- ১। চট্টগ্রাম সমুদ্র বন্দর হতে বিভিন্ন সাইজের এমএস লাইন পাইপ ও পাইপ লাইন সংক্রান্ত অন্যান্য মালামাল ট্রাক ও ট্রেইলারযোগে ডেমরায় অবস্থিত কোম্পানীর ভাঙার পরিবহণের জন্য নিম্নলিখিত শ্রেণি অনুযায়ী পরিবহণ ঠিকাদার নিয়োগকল্পে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাবে।
- ২। দরপত্র দাখিলের তারিখঃ ১৭-০৪-২০০১
- ৩। আবেদনকারী (জামানত) ট্রাকযোগে পরিবহণ। ট্রেইলারযোগে পরিবহণ।
- ৪। দরপত্র দাখিলের মূল্য ৮,১০০.০০ (অক্ষয়কোষ)।
- ৫। আবেদনকারী (জামানত) তিতাস গ্যাস ট্রান্সমিশন এন্ড ডিস্ট্রিবিউশন কোম্পানী লিমিটেড বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের যে কোন তফসিলি ব্যাংক হতে প্রতি মাসের জন্য পৃথক পৃথক করে ৮,২৫,০০০.০০ (পঁচিশ হাজার) টাকার পে-অর্ডার/চেক ড্রাফট এর মাধ্যমে দরপত্রের সংশ্লিষ্ট জমা দিতে হবে।
- ৬। দরপত্র দাখিলের তারিখ ও দাখিলের স্থান পূর্ণ বিরাম সমন্বিত দরপত্র নিম্নলিখিত স্থানসমূহ হতে নির্ধারিত মূল্যে আগামী ২৩-০৪-২০০১ইং তারিখ হতে জমা করা যাবে এবং নিম্নলিখিত অফিসসমূহে রক্ষিত ব্যাংক নির্ধারিত সময় ও তারিখ অনুযায়ী দরপত্র গৃহীত হবে।
- ৭। ১। হিসাব বিভাগ (টিজিটিসিএল) (৩তম তল) দরপত্র দাখিল করা যাবে।
- ৮। দাখিলের স্থান ৩য় তল, টিজিটিসিএল, ১০৫, কাজী নজরুল ইসলাম এভিনিউ, আগ্রা বাজার বা/এ, ঢাকা-১২১৫।
- ৯। হিসাব বিভাগ (বিগেজএমসি/পেট্রোলিয়াম) (১তম তল) প্রধান কার্যালয়, চাঁদপুর, কুমিল্লা।
- ১০। হিসাব বিভাগ (টিজিটিসিএল) (৩তম তল) এইচবিএফসি ভবন (৯ম তল), ২২, পুরানা পল্টন, ঢাকা।
- ১১। হিসাব বিভাগ (টিজিটিসিএল) (৩তম তল) কোর্ট রোড, ব্রাহ্মণবাড়ীয়া।
- ১২। হিসাব বিভাগ (টিজিটিসিএল) (৩তম তল) শাহজালাল উপ-শহর, মেন্দীবাগ, সিলেট।
- ১৩। হিসাব বিভাগ (টিজিটিসিএল) (৩তম তল) চিকনাথল, হরিপুর, সিলেট।
- ১৪। হিসাব বিভাগ (টিজিটিসিএল) (৩তম তল) বিএসইসি ভবন (৮ম তল), ১০২, কাজী নজরুল ইসলাম এভিনিউ, আগ্রা বাজার বা/এ, ঢাকা-১২১৫।
- ১৫। হিসাব বিভাগ (টিজিটিসিএল) (৩তম তল) বাড়ি নং-১, গোল্ড নং-১২, সেক্টর নং-৩, উত্তরা মহল্লা টাউন, ঢাকা-১২০০।
- ১৬। দরপত্র দাখিল ও খোলার সময় (ক) দাখিলের সময়ঃ দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের পর হতে ০৮-০৫-২০০১ইং তারিখ বেলা ১১.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত। (খ) খোলার সময়ঃ ০৮-০৫-২০০১ইং তারিখ বেলা ১১.০০ ঘটিকায়।
- ১৭। অনিবার্য কারণবশতঃ দরপত্র দাখিলের দিন অফিস বন্ধ থাকিলে তাহা পরবর্তী কার্যদিবসে উপরোক্ত স্থান সমূহে ও সময়ে খোলা হইবে। দরপত্র দাখিলের দিন কোন দরপত্র দাখিল রিজেক্ট করা হইবে না। কোন কারণ দর্শালে ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা সকল দরপত্র বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা কোম্পানী সংরক্ষণ করে।

প্রাকৃতিক গ্যাসের অপব্যবহার রোধ করুন নিয়মিত গ্যাস বিল পরিশোধ করুন। উপ-মহাব্যবস্থাপক (ক্রম) তিতাস/জনসংযোগ-১১০/২০০০-২০০১। ফোনঃ ৩৫৪।

# Saddam names Tareq Aziz as interim FM

AFP, Baghdad. Iraqi President Saddam Hussein yesterday named Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz as interim foreign minister, replacing Mohammad Said al-Sahhaf, state television reported. In a presidential decree read out on television, Hussein said Sahhaf would take over the information ministry from Humam Abdul Khaleq Abd al-Ghafur who was given the vacant post of minister of higher education and scientific research.

# Gunmen kill 10 in Philippines

REUTERS, Manila. Gunmen have shot dead 10 people, including two town mayors, and kidnapped five other politicians in outbreaks of violence in the Philippines ahead of Next month's legislative and local elections, police said yesterday. Philippine elections are traditionally bloody because of heated rivalries, with scores being killed in campaign violence. Thirteen seats in the Senate, more than 200 seats in the House of Representatives and thousands of provincial and municipal posts are at stake in the May 14 polls.

# NATO troops smash thru' roadblocks in N Kosovo

AP, Pristina. NATO troops smashed through three roadblocks set up by Serbs in northern Kosovo protesting tax collection checkpoints established by the United Nations, a spokesman for the peacekeepers said yesterday. The roadblocks were destroyed "in order to re-establish freedom of movement for all people of Kosovo," said squadron leader Roy Brown, a spokesman for the peacekeepers. The action began around 6 am (1000 BST) near the towns of Zvecan, Zupce and Loziste, French 1st Lt. Francis Megerlin said. He said the roadblocks were hampering freedom of movement of the NATO-led KFOR peacekeepers and UN officials administering the province. In Zupce, peacekeepers used tear gas to disperse stone-throwing crowds, while in Zvecan, one Serb was detained. NATO used several armored vehicles, two bulldozers and a truck to remove the blockades, Serb-language media in the northern city of Kosovska Mitrovica reported. After the roadblocks were torn down, Serbs set off sirens that wailed through the Serb-held part of Kosovska Mitrovica, a city divided along ethnic lines. The sirens were intended to summon residents to man the barricades. By Thursday morning, about 200 Serbs had gathered at a nearby blockade. "We shall set up other blockades. We have to persevere," local Serb leader Marko Jaksic was quoted as saying by the Belgrade radio station B-92. "We won't let them (NATO) separate us from our state, Serbia."



Photo: AFP. Belgrade police officers lift up Serb Radical Party leader Vojislav Seselj during a clash between Serbian police and opposition parliamentary deputies allied to former Yugoslav president Slobodan Milosevic in Belgrade on Wednesday.

# Bush agrees to sign treaty banning POPs

AP, Washington. President George W. Bush has decided to sign a treaty calling for the worldwide phaseout of a dozen highly toxic and persistent chemicals known as POPs, administration sources said. The group of chemicals, referred to widely as simply "the dirty dozen," include PCBs, dioxins and furans, plus DDT and other pesticides. Most of the "persistent organic pollutants" no longer are used in industrial countries such as the United States. But they remain popular in developing countries.

# Cargo ship sinks off China coast: 11 missing

AFP, Hong Kong. Eleven crew members were missing after a ceramic-laden Chinese cargo ship sank after colliding with another vessel off southeastern China yesterday. Only two of 13 crew of the Nanjing-registered "Siang 888" were rescued after the collisions with "Tongning No 3" in Daping Bay, off southeastern Shenzhen yesterday, the Wen Wei Po daily said. The cause of the collision was not known.

Directorate General Medical Services Ministry of Defence Dhaka Cantt. Re-Tender Notice. Sealed tender in local currency is invited from bonafide dealers/suppliers/indentors for routine maintenance of MRI Machine in CMH, Dhaka. S/No Name of work Selling date Opening date Tender no Tender value 1. Routine maintenance of MRI Machine (Model The EDGE 1.5 Tesla Magnetic Resonance Imaging System, Picker USA) in CMH, Dhaka from 1st May 2001 to 30 April 2002. 22 April 2001 30 April 2001 02/E/01. 200/-.

Directorate General Defence Purchase Ministry of Defence New Airport Road, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215. Tender Notice. 1. Sealed tender in foreign currency is invited from bonafide manufacturers/ dealers/ suppliers (enlisted firms in DGDP) for supply of the following items for Bangladesh Navy. SI Name of item & qty Date of selling From To Date of opening Tender no 1. Motor Driving Simulator Qty: 02 in No 26.4.2001 24.5.2001 27.5.2001 6822/NP-4 2. Tender schedule with detailed specification/condition will be available on payment as per international tender selling rate (non-refundable) during office hours between 0800 hours to 1300 hours. The tender can be dropped latest by 1000 hours and opened at 1005 hours on the specified date of opening in the presence of the tenderers (if present). ISPR/Misc/2001/348 DFP-9870-16/4 G-719 Lt Commander BN For Director General